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Cane'

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(54) **CONTAINER FOR DISPOSABLE NEEDLE OR CANNULA**

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See application file for complete search history.

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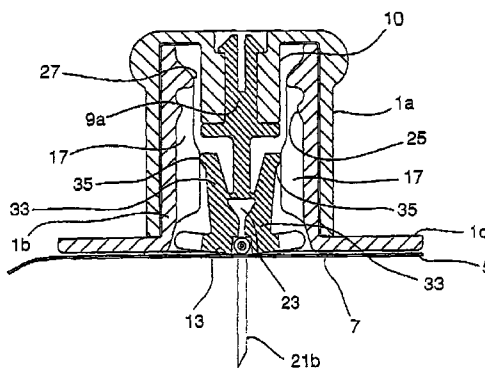
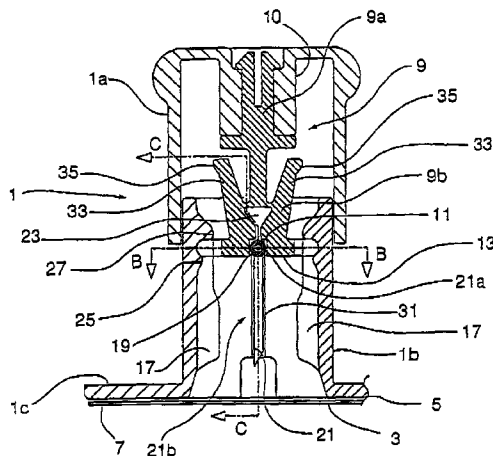
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a container for a disposable needle or cannula, intended to facilitate needle or cannula placement for the infusion of a liquid drug under a patient's skin, the container including a cylindrical housing (1; 101) in which there are defined a cap (1a; 101a) and a sleeve (1b; 101b) provided with a resting base (1c; 101c), the cap (1a; 101a) being axially slidable relative to the sleeve (1b; 101b) when a sufficient pressure is exerted on the cap (1a; 101a); a needle (21; 121) or cannula, which is located inside the housing so as to be directed towards the resting base (1c; 101c) for the infusion of the drug; a retaining member (9; 109), which is located within the housing (1; 101) between said cap (1a; 101a) and the sleeve (1b; 101b) and to which the needle (21; 121) or cannula is secured; the container being equipped with a releasing member for releasing the needle (21; 121) or cannula when the cap (1a; 101a) is made to slide on the sleeve (1b; 101b).

35 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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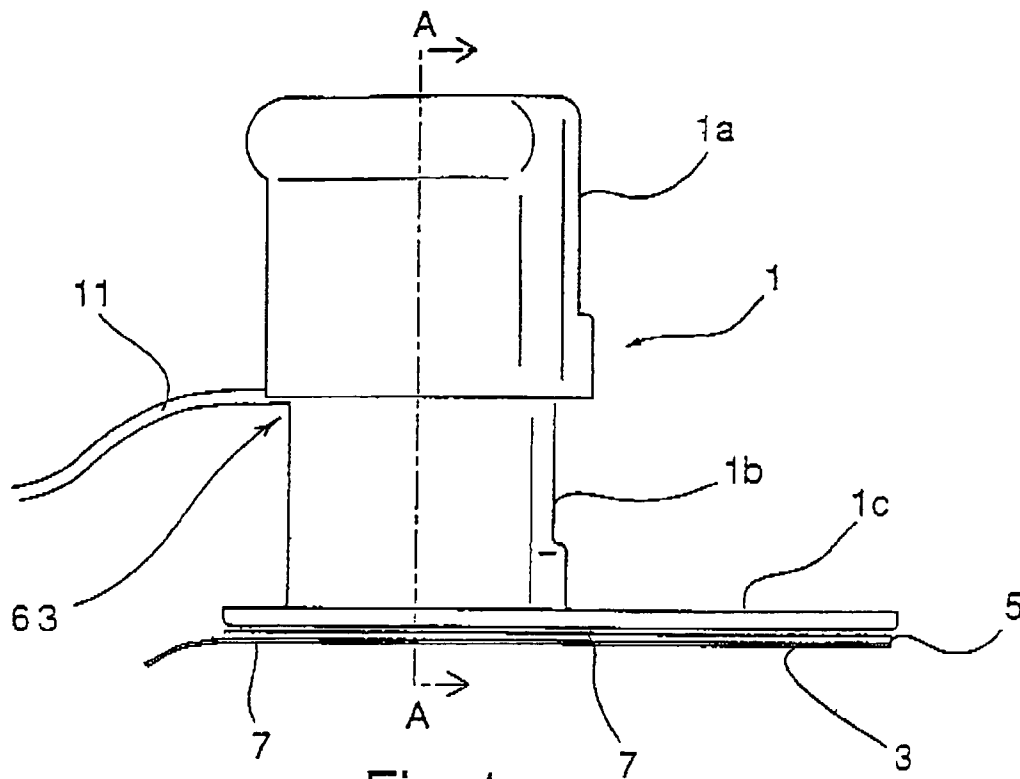


Fig. 1

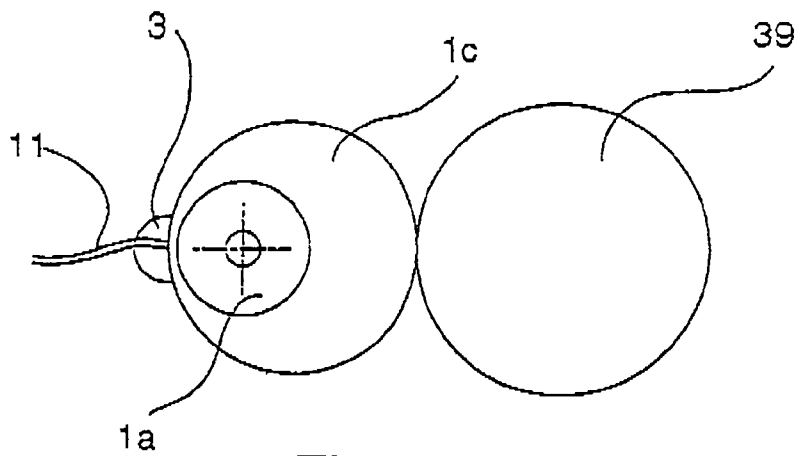


Fig. 6

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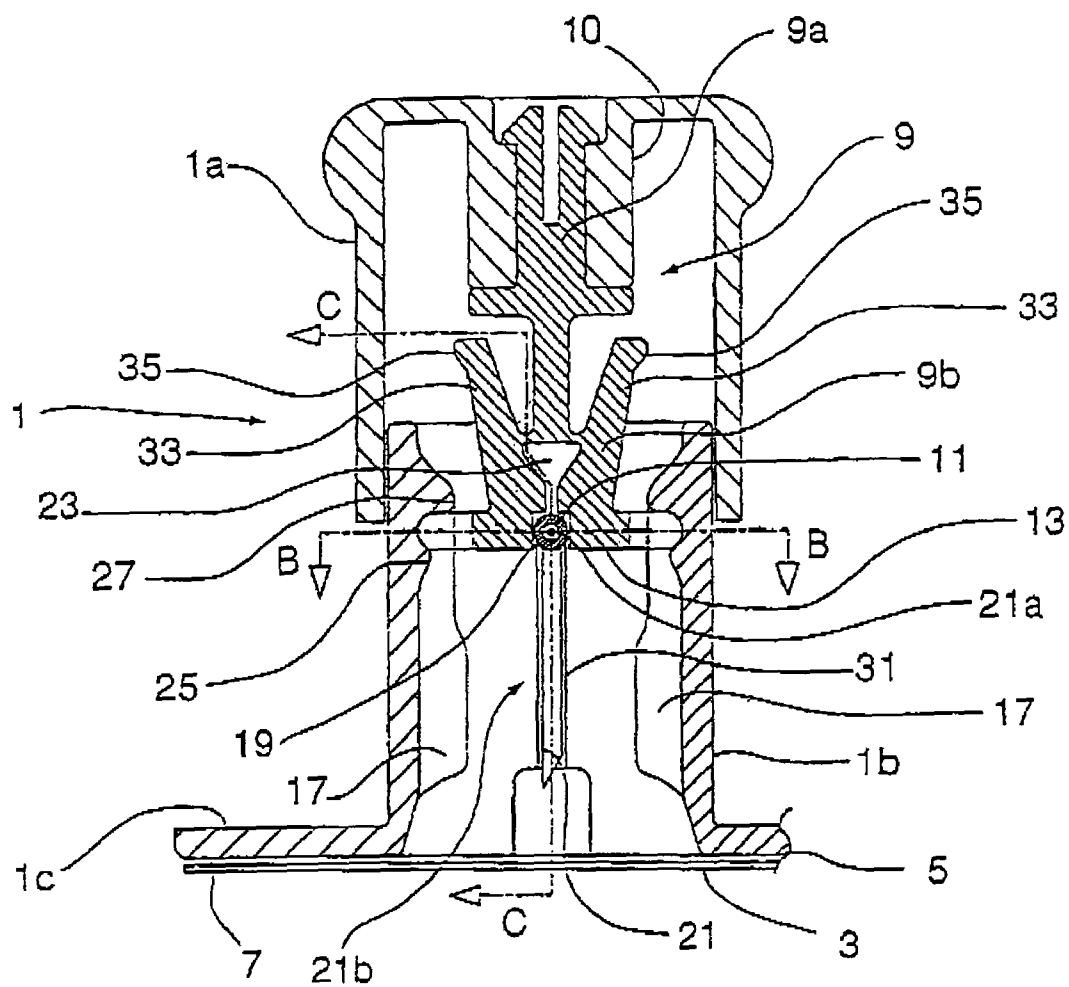


Fig. 2

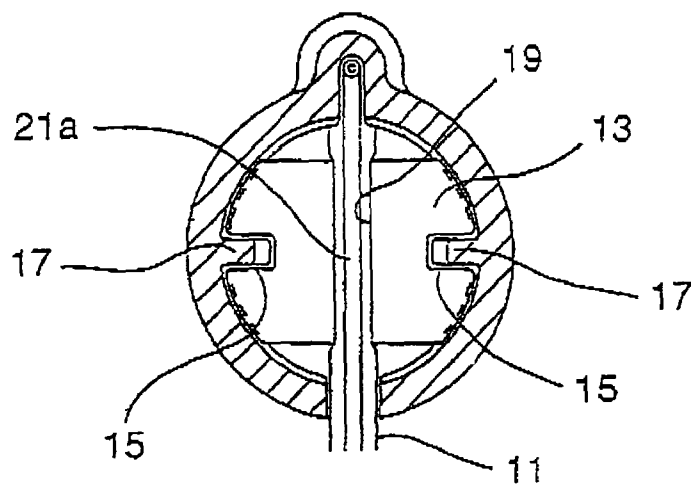


Fig. 4

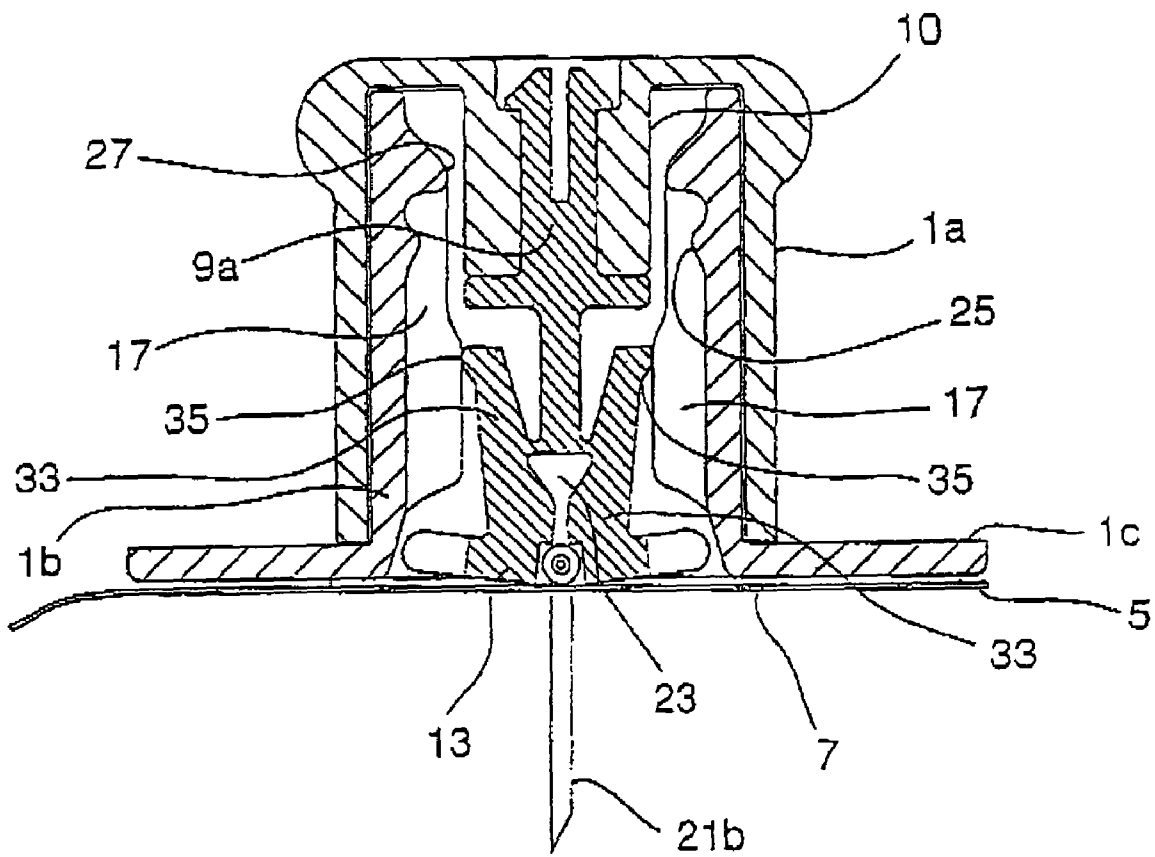


Fig. 3

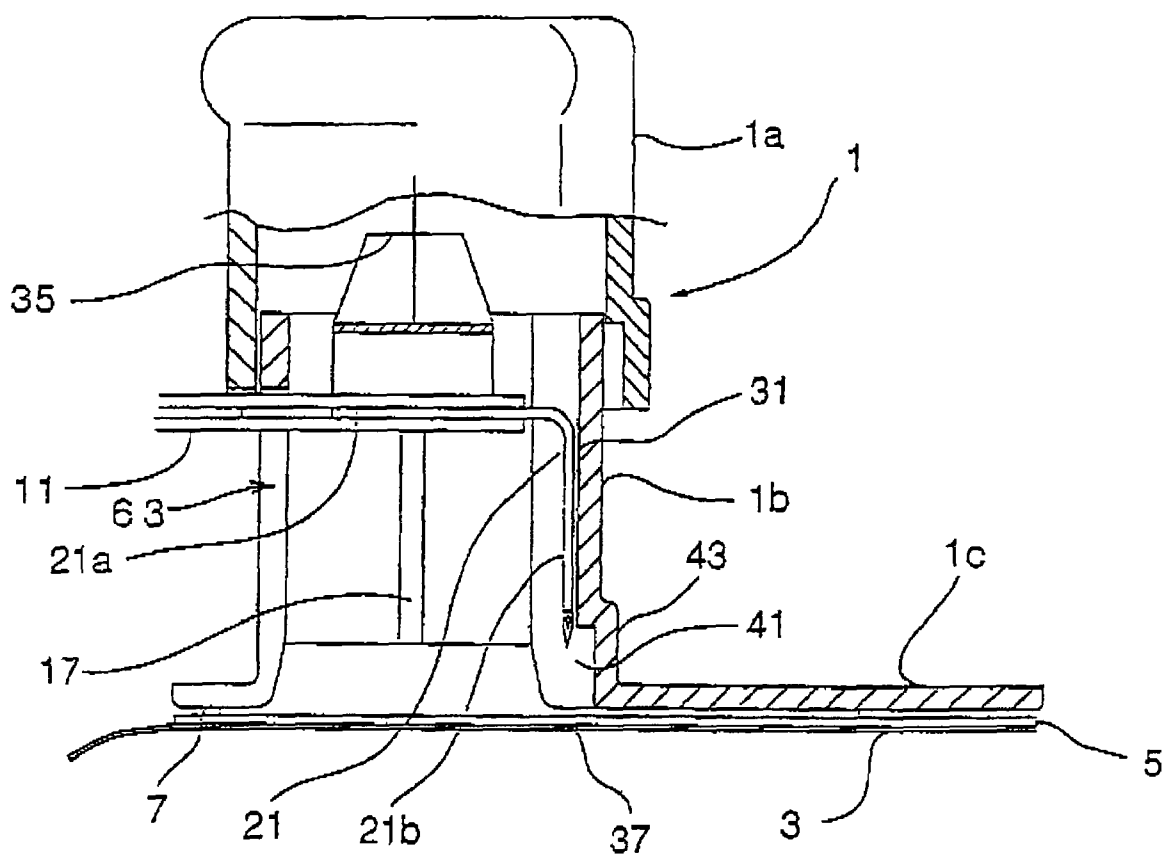
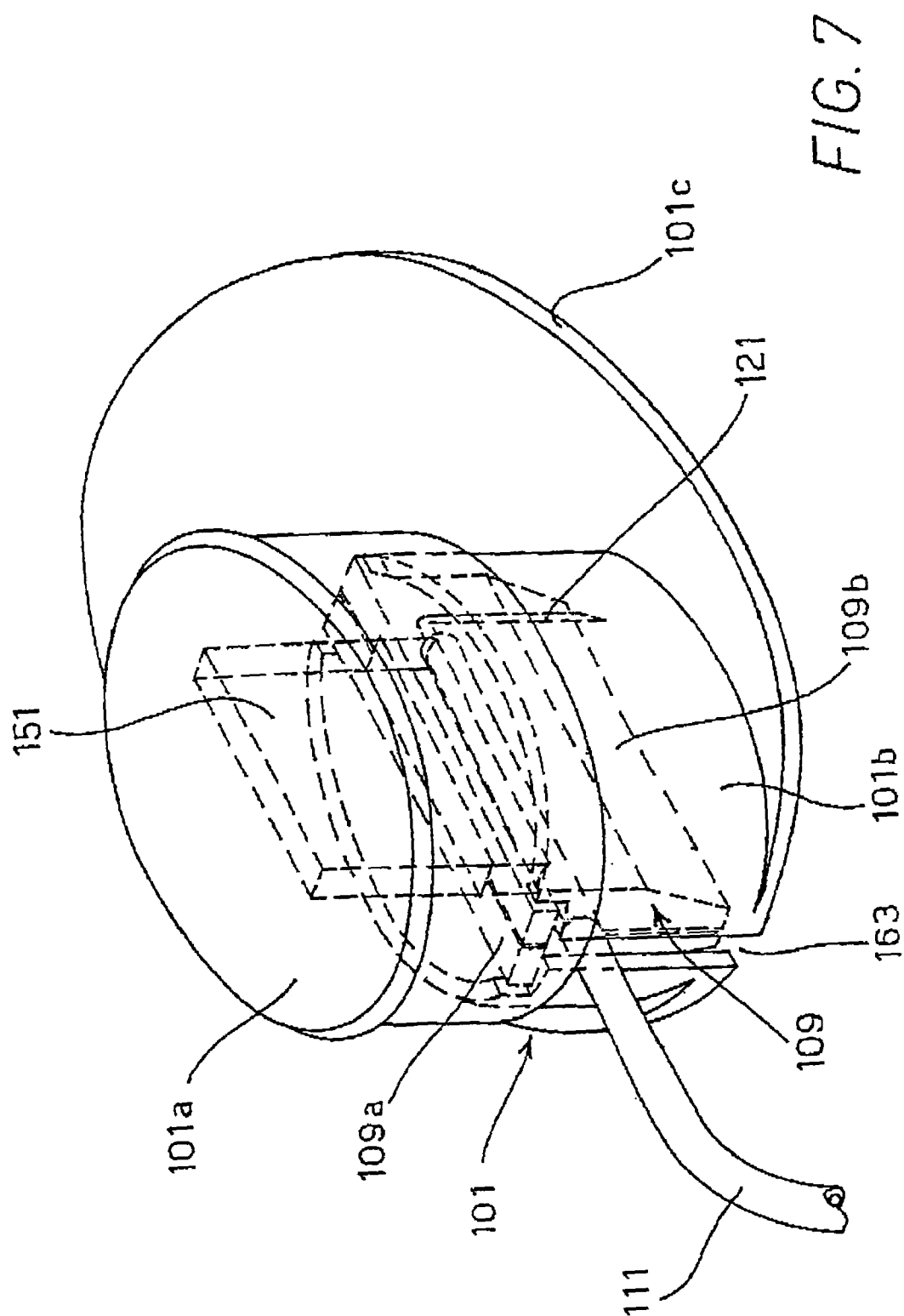


Fig. 5

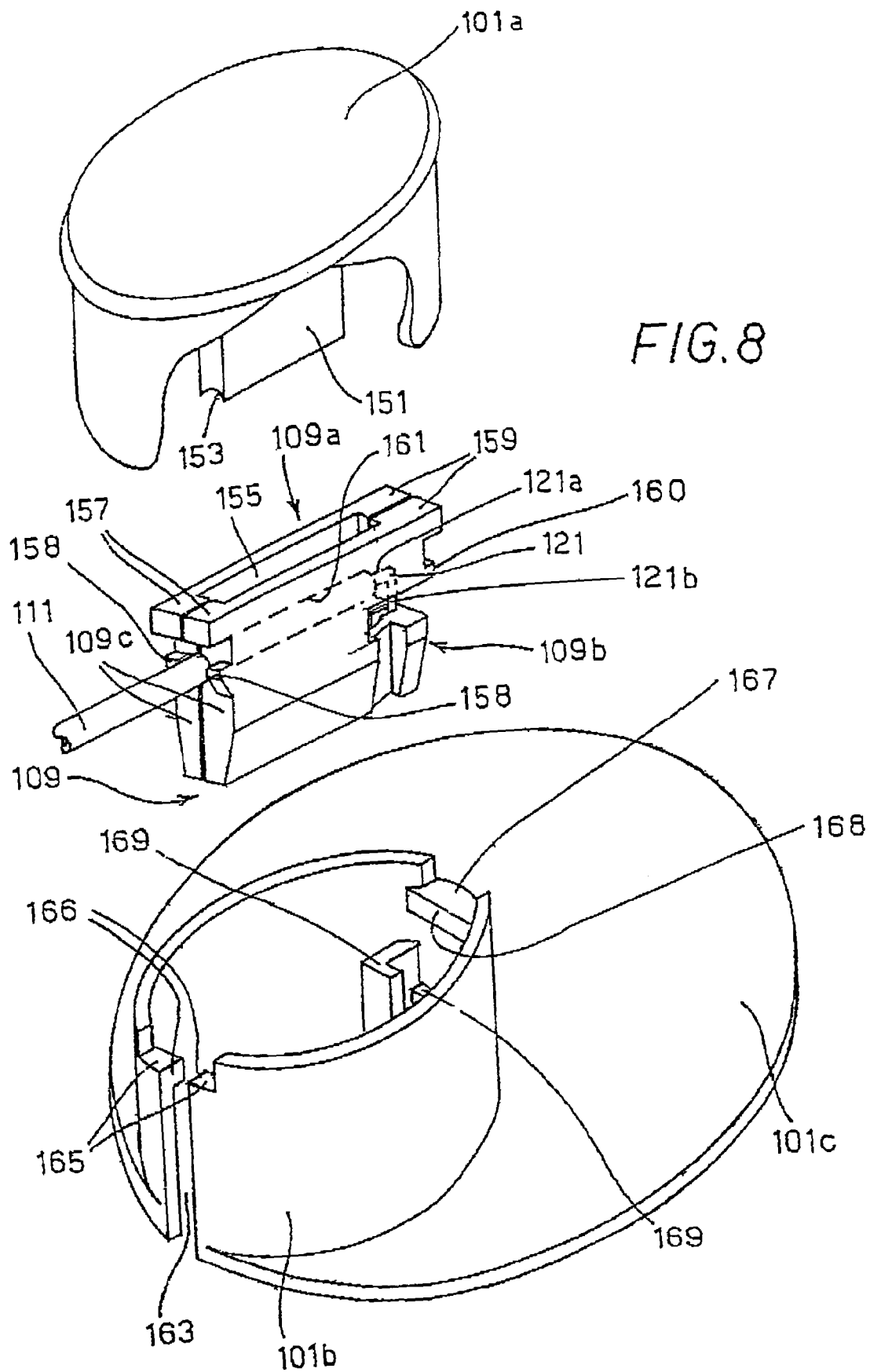


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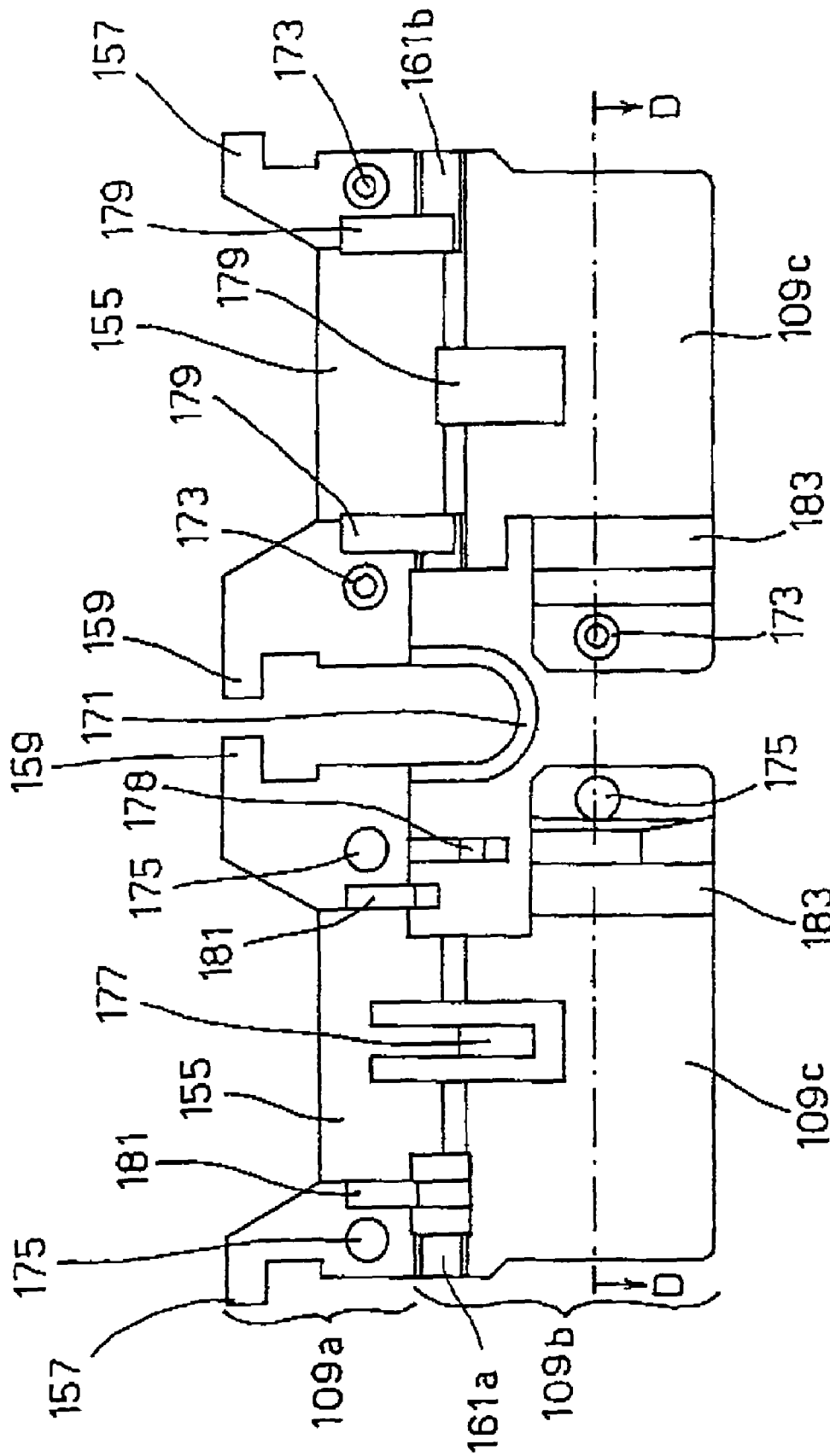


FIG. 9

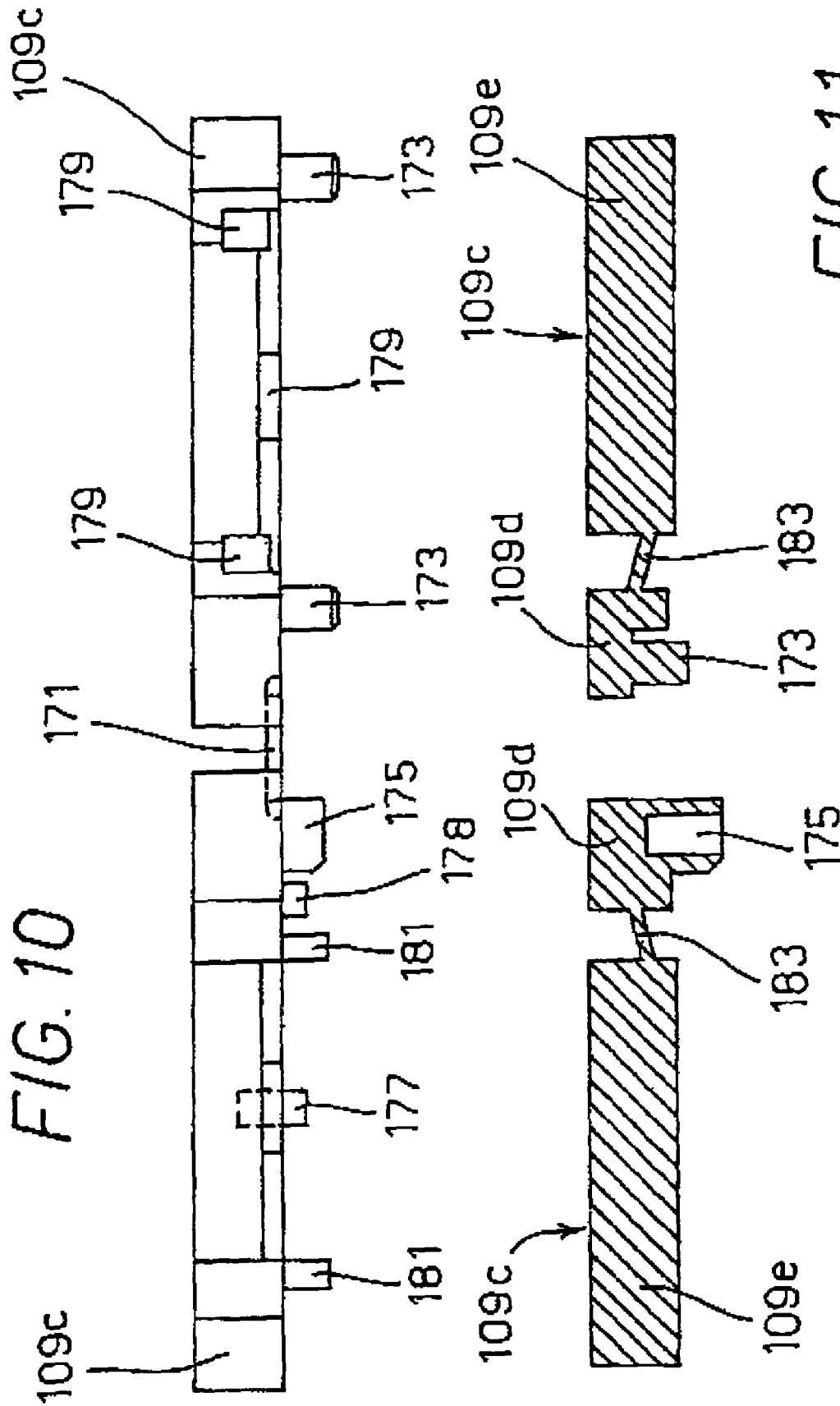


FIG. 11

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**CONTAINER FOR DISPOSABLE NEEDLE OR
CANNULA**

The present invention relates to a container for a disposable needle. More particularly, the invention refers to a container for a disposable needle for drug infusion, which container makes needle placement through a patient's skin easier.

As known, several medical treatments exploit subcutaneous infusion of liquid drugs: the drug flows through a hose connected to a needle placed through the patient's skin and it is directly delivered under the skin through said needle. Alternatively, insertion needles are employed for placement through the patient's skin of a soft and relatively flexible tubular cannula, followed by insertion needle removal and subsequent infusion of medical fluid to the patient directly through the cannula. In some cases, the patient himself/herself is to administer the drug. For instance, many diabetic patients self-administer insulin, in the form of controlled and prolonged infusion.

Clearly, many patients have no medical knowledge and therefore they may be reluctant to place the needle or cannula through their skin or inexperienced in doing so. Thus, it is necessary to provide means allowing automatic placement, so as to prevent the patient's lack of skill or hesitation from resulting in an incorrect needle or cannula placement, with possible dangerous consequences.

Devices of this kind, which can be employed for the subcutaneous infusion of a liquid drug either through a needle or through a soft cannula, already exist and one of them is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,093,172.

According to the teaching of the above mentioned patent, a device for needle placement comprises a cylinder, the lower portion of which can receive the outward-directed needle and related hose, ready for placement through the patient's skin. Said cylinder internally includes a spring that can be brought into a loaded condition and, on its upper portion, a trigger that is to release said spring. By depressing the trigger, the spring is released so as to outward project, more particularly through the patient's skin, the needle located in the lower portion of the device. Once the needle is placed through the skin, a slight traction is sufficient to retract the device and leave the needle in place, in the correct position.

A problem with such kind of devices is that the patient is to provide for the correct introduction of the infusion set into the lower portion of the cylinder, to ensure a correct needle positioning.

It is a main object of the present invention to provide a container within which a needle and the related hose or, alternatively, a cannula, are already correctly positioned, so that the patient only has to place said container against his/her skin and to release the needle or cannula through a simple movement.

Another drawback of such known devices is that, while the needle is being placed inside the device, the user risks to prick himself/herself while handling the needle. Moreover, at such step, the needle is exposed to the outside environment and in particular to germs and bacteria.

Thus, it is another object of the present invention to provide a container for a disposable needle or cannula that does not result in the risk for the user to prick himself/herself during use and that allows maintaining hygiene and safety in respect of possible contamination by external agents.

A container for a disposable needle intended to facilitate needle or cannula placement through a patient's skin is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,093,172.

The above and other objects of the invention are achieved by a container as defined in the appended claims.

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The container according to the invention has the appearance of a small housing of plastic material, already containing the needle connected with the related hose or, alternatively, the end of the cannula connected with the related insertion needle, and protected from the surrounding environment by means of a protecting film.

After said film has been removed and the container base has been placed against the skin, a simple push is sufficient to release the needle and pierce the skin.

Once the needle has been placed through the skin, the container can be removed by slightly pulling it, without risks of displacing the needle from the correct position.

If the drug is to be delivered to the patient directly through a soft cannula, the insertion needle of said cannula can be removed together with the container, without displacing the cannula.

Advantageously, the construction of a disposable device affords maximum simplicity of use and maximum hygiene.

A number of embodiments of the invention will be disclosed in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein the container according to the invention is employed for the insertion of a needle through a patient's skin. However, as already mentioned, the container according to the invention can be similarly used for the insertion of a soft cannula through a patient's skin.

In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 is a side view of the container according to a first embodiment of the invention, shown before use;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line A-A in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken along line A-A in FIG. 1, after needle insertion;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line B-B in FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along line C-C in FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 is a top view of the container according to said first embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7 is an overall perspective view of the container according to a second embodiment of the invention, shown before use;

FIG. 8 is an exploded view of the container shown in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a plan view of the needle-retaining member in the container shown in FIG. 7, shown before assembling;

FIG. 10 is a side view of the needle-retaining member shown in FIG. 9; and

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view, taken along line D-D, of the needle-retaining member shown in FIG. 9.

Referring to FIG. 1, the container according to a first embodiment of the present invention comprises a cylindrical housing 1, in which there is defined a cap 1a axially slidable relative to a sleeve 1b when a sufficient pressure is exerted on said cap 1a.

Said cap 1a moreover has an inner diameter slightly exceeding the outer diameter of sleeve 1b, so as to allow sleeve 1b to be received within cap 1a when the latter has been wholly depressed.

Sleeve 1b is integral with a base 1c intended for placing the container against the patient's skin, in the area where a L-shaped needle is to be inserted.

A hose 11, intended to supply the needle located within housing 1 with the drug, as it will be better disclosed hereinafter, radially comes out from sleeve 1b through an axial slit 63.

It is to be noted that said L-shaped needle with its related hose can be replaced by a soft cannula provided with an

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insertion needle of the type shown above captioned U.S. Pat. No. 6,093,172. Said cannula is a hollow tube made from a soft and flexible material, which can be bent into a desired configuration. In order to insert the cannula through a patient's skin, an insertion needle is introduced in the free end of the cannula and used for piercing the patient's skin and driving through the patient's skin said end of said cannula. The insertion needle is then removed, the cannula is bent into a L-shaped configuration for purpose of practicalness so as to adhere to the patient's skin and the drug is infused through the cannula. It is evident that, within the scope of the invention, the above disclosed cannula, together with the associated insertion needle, is equivalent to the aforesaid L-shaped needle and, for this reason, it will not be further described.

Outside housing 1, a removable film 3 is applied onto base 1c, to protect an adhesive gauze 5 placed between said film and base 1c and weakly adhering to base 1c in correspondence of a set of circular portions 7.

Referring now to FIG. 2, the container according to said first embodiment of the invention comprises, within said housing 1, a retaining member 9 comprising a securing portion 9a directed towards cap 1a and a retaining portion 9b directed towards sleeve 1b.

Securing portion 9a is firmly held inside an axial cylindrical hub 10 extending within cap 1a and integral therewith. Retaining portion 9b axially extends inside the container and ends, at its end remote from said securing portion 9a, with a plate 13 transversally arranged relative to the axis of retaining member 9.

As better shown in FIG. 4, said plate 13 has a substantially circular shape and has a pair of diametrically opposite radial grooves 15, through which corresponding axial projections 17 formed within sleeve 1b pass. Said projections are arranged to guide the axial sliding of plate 13, and consequently of member 9, when cap 1a is pressed against sleeve 1b.

Still with reference to FIG. 4, said plate 13 further comprises a groove 19, diametrically crossing the whole plane of plate 13, perpendicularly to radial grooves 15. Groove 19 retains inlet branch 21a of an L-shaped needle 21 for the infusion of the drug, housed inside the container.

Turning back to FIG. 2, said groove 19 axially extends inside plate 13 and retaining element 9b and widens, at its end, into a radial hollow 23, thereby to define two diametrically opposite portions of said plate 13. As it will be explained hereinafter, said portions can be deformed to release needle 21 once cap 1a has been depressed.

Two circumferential rims 25 and 27, respectively, are formed on the internal wall of sleeve 1b to keep plate 13 in engagement against sleeve 1b, thereby preventing cap 1a from sliding until a force sufficient to overcome the resistance of outermost rim 25 relative to said cap 1a is exerted against said cap.

With reference to FIG. 5, the internal wall of sleeve 1b comprises an axial groove 31 housing outlet branch 21b of L-shaped needle 21.

Said sleeve 1b further has, at the end of said axial groove 31, a widened portion 41 in correspondence of base 1c, to prevent branch 21b of needle 21 from sticking into the wall of sleeve 1b while advancing towards the outside through opening 37 provided in gauze 5. Cap 1a has a corresponding widening 43 to receive the outer projection defined by said widened portion 41 when sleeve 1b is completely received within cap 1a.

Turning back to FIG. 2, retaining portion 9b further comprises a pair of diametrically opposite fins 33 upward projecting from plate 13 and diverging towards cap 1a. Said fins 33

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end with a convex portion 35, interfering with axial projections 17 when cap 1a is depressed and retaining member 9 is made to slide along sleeve 1b, thereby disengaging plate 13 from rim 25 and bringing the container to the position shown in FIG. 3.

Referring now to FIG. 3, when cap 1a is completely lowered against sleeve 1b, retaining member 9 is arranged with plate 13 against the inner face of gauze 5, and branch 21b of L-shaped needle 21 will be completely placed through the patient's skin after having passed through opening 37 in gauze 5.

Referring now to FIG. 6, gauze 5 is joined to a second adhesive gauze 39, which in turn is protected by a respective removable adhesive film. The border of second gauze 39 can be folded on gauze 5 when needle 21 has been inserted and the container has been removed. Thus, the patient can advantageously cover the area of gauze 5 and branch 21a of L-shaped needle 21 by said second gauze 39, whereby only the border of gauze 39 is externally visible and the area occupied by the needle is thus protected.

The operation of the container according to said first embodiment is as follows: starting from the configuration shown in FIG. 2, protecting film 3 is removed and adhesive gauze 5 is made to adhere to the patient's skin in the area where needle 21 is to be inserted. Pushing cap 1a towards base 1c results, once the resistance of rim 25 has been overcome, in the release of plate 13 and the sliding of cap 1a on sleeve 1b. During this step, needle 21 is placed through the patient's skin and, at the same time, is released from retaining member 9 because of the deformation of plate 13 due to the pressure radially exerted by projections 17 onto fins 33. The container has thus taken the configuration shown in FIG. 3 and it can be removed, while leaving the needle in place thanks to the weak adhesion between base 1c and gauze 5 if compared with the adhesion between gauze 5 and the patient's skin. Subsequently, the protecting film of second gauze 39 can be removed therefrom and gauze 39 can be folded on and made to adhere to gauze 5.

Referring now to FIGS. 7 to 11, a second embodiment of the invention is shown, which differs from the first embodiment in particular in respect of the structure of the needle-retaining member.

In this second embodiment, the container comprises a cylindrical housing 101, in which a cap 101a and a sleeve 101b are defined. The sleeve has a slightly smaller diameter, so that, when a sufficient pressure is exerted on cap 101a, the latter is axially slidable relative to sleeve 101b and can internally receive the sleeve. Said sleeve 101b is integral with a base 101c intended for placing the container against the patient's skin.

Slightly projecting circumferential rims could be provided on the inner surface of the base of cap 101a and on the outer surface of the edge of sleeve 101b remote from base 101c, respectively. Thanks to the co-operation between said circumferential rims, when housing 101 is assembled, said cap 101a is axially slidable on sleeve 101b but it cannot be accidentally separated therefrom.

Moreover, an annular band, e.g. of plastic material, could be applied around sleeve 101b to prevent cap 101a from accidentally sliding relative to sleeve 101b. Said band can be easily removed by the user before use.

A hose 111 radially comes out from sleeve 101b through an axial slit 163. Said hose is intended to deliver the drug to an L-shaped needle 121, located within housing 101 and comprising an inlet branch 121a, onto which the hose is fitted, and an outlet branch 121b, intended to be at least partly placed

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through the patient's skin. Said L-shaped needle **121** is housed within a retaining member **109**, contained within housing **101**.

Said retaining member **109** comprises a securing portion **109a** and a retaining portion **109b** and consists of two coupled half-shells **109c**, shaped so as to define therebetween a cavity **161** capable of receiving said needle **121**.

Securing portion **109a** comprises two shoulders **157**, **159**, which are received into corresponding recesses **165**, **167** formed in the edge of sleeve **101b** remote from base **101c**.

More particularly, recess **165** formed in correspondence with slit **163** is so sized that its edges resiliently press against shoulder **157** of retaining member **109**, whereas the opposite recess **167** is oversized with respect to the corresponding shoulder **159** in said member **109**, so that a clearance is left.

In the alternative, a pair of facing resilient members could be formed on the internal surface of said sleeve **101b**, which members radially project towards the centre of said sleeve to such an extent that they press against half-shells **109c** of said member **109**.

Advantageously, radial projections **166**, **168** are provided on the inner surface of sleeve **101b** in correspondence with recesses **165**, **167** and are firmly held between said shoulders **157**, **159** and corresponding teeth **158**, **160** formed in securing portion **109a** of said retaining member **109**. In such manner, retaining member **109** is axially joined to sleeve **101b**.

Furthermore, a recess **155**, extending up to cavity **161**, is defined in securing portion **109a**, to receive a projection **151** centrally provided inside cap **101a**. Preferably, end **153** of said projection **151** is so shaped that it conforms to the curved profile of hose **111**.

Two facing L-shaped axial projections **169**, diametrically opposed and parallel to slit **163**, are provided inside sleeve **101b** and they form a seat for the portion of said retaining member **109** receiving outlet branch **121b** of needle **121**.

FIGS. 9 to 11 show in detail retaining member **109**.

Advantageously, said retaining member **109** consists of two facing half-shells **109c**, whereby positioning of needle **121** is particularly easy: indeed, it will be sufficient to place said needle between said half-shells **109c** and then to join them, thereby blocking the needle therebetween. Said half-shells **109c** are preferably formed by moulding into a single element, and therefore they are advantageously joined by a flexible member **171** making their assembling easier.

One of said half-shells **109c** comprises three pins **173** engaging corresponding holes **175** in the other half-shell **109c**, thereby assisting in correctly aligning both half-shells **109c** at the assembling and, subsequently, in keeping them joined.

Both half-shells **109c** have a groove **161a**, **161b** defining cavity **161** when half-shells **109c** are joined.

Inlet branch **121a** of needle **121**, on which hose **111** is fitted, is retained inside cavity **161** thanks to the co-operation between a pair of support projections **177**, **178** and a pair of rigid tongues **181** provided on one of half-shells **109c** and housed in respective seats **179** in the other half-shell.

One of said support projections, **178**, is suitably arranged on one half-shell **109c** in correspondence of the bend between inlet and outlet branches **121a**, **121b** of needle **121**. When the retaining member **109** is assembled, said projection **178** prevents, by co-operating with the surface of the facing half-shell **109**, needle removal from housing **101**.

As shown in FIG. 11, retaining portion **109b** of each half-shell **109c** is divided into two sections **109d**, **109e** connected by a flexible connecting member **183** allowing limited relative displacements of said sections.

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When half-shells **109c** are joined together, sections **109e** in the respective half-shells adhere to each other, whereas a passage for outlet branch **121b** of needle **121** is defined between sections **109d**.

In this second embodiment, insertion and release of the needle take place as follows. When pushing cap **101a** with sufficient force towards container base **101c**, projection **151** presses against hose **111** and, by overcoming the resistance of pins **173** and the elastic resistance of sleeve **101b**, said projection forces half-shells **109c** apart. Sections **109d** of said half-shells **109c** cannot be separated, since they are rigidly retained by L-shaped projections of sleeve **101b**, so that the passage for outlet branch **121b** of needle **121** defined therebetween keeps unchanged. On the contrary, sections **109e** of said half-shells can be spaced apart, by overcoming the elastic resistance of the edges of recess **165** in sleeve **101b**. In such manner, hose **111** can pass through half-shells **109c** along slit **163**, while needle **121** is guided between facing sections **109d** of half-shells **109c**, until its outlet branch **121b** becomes completely placed through the patient's skin.

Similarly to what described in connection with the first embodiment of the invention, also in this second embodiment the container can comprise, outside housing **101** and against base **101c**, an adhesive gauze **5** weakly adhering to base **101c** in correspondence of a set of circular portions. Thus, gauze **5** can remain adhering to the patient's skin after needle **121** has been placed through the patient's skin and the container has been removed. Said adhesive gauze **5** could be possibly joined with a second, protecting adhesive gauze which could be folded onto said first gauze after container removal.

It is clear that the above description has been given only by way of non-limiting example and that changes and modifications are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

In particular, as already mentioned, even if the above description has been given with reference to the insertion of a needle through which the drug coming from a related hose is delivered to a patient, the container according to the invention can also be used for the insertion through a patient's skin of a cannula provided with an insertion needle when the drug is to be delivered to the patient directly through said cannula.

What is claimed is:

1. A container for facilitating placement of a medical device through a patient's skin, the container comprising:

a cylindrical housing in which there are defined a cap and a sleeve, said sleeve including a resting base having a planar surface configured for placement against a patient's skin, said cap surrounding at least a portion of said sleeve and being axially slidable relative to said sleeve to substantially encase said sleeve when a sufficient pressure is exerted on said cap;

a retaining member located within said housing, said retaining member having a needle secured thereto;

a releasing member for releasing said needle from said retaining member when said cap is made to slide on said sleeve, thereby allowing the placement of said needle under the patient's skin and the subsequent removal of said container;

wherein the container is disposable and upon exertion of said pressure on said cap the force resulting from said pressure is transferred to said needle so that said needle is placed through the patient's skin by means of said pressure exerted on said cap.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base has, on an outer face, a gauze adhering to said base, said gauze comprising an adhesive having a removable protecting film thereon.

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3. A container as claimed in claim 2, wherein said gauze is joined to said base in circular portions.

4. A container for facilitating placement of a medical device through a patient's skin, the container comprising:

a cylindrical housing in which there are defined a cap and a sleeve, said sleeve including a resting base having a planar surface configured for placement against a patient's skin, said cap being axially slidable relative to said sleeve when a sufficient pressure is exerted on said cap;

a retaining member located within said housing, said retaining member having a needle secured thereto;

a releasing member for releasing said needle from said retaining member when said cap is made to slide on said sleeve, thereby allowing the placement of said needle under the patient's skin and the subsequent removal of said container;

wherein the container is disposable and upon exertion of said pressure on said cap the force resulting from said pressure is transferred to said needle so that said needle is placed through the patient's skin by means of said pressure exerted on said cap and

wherein said sleeve has an axial slit through which a hose extends radially and along which said hose is slidable when said cap is made to slide on said sleeve.

5. A container for facilitating placement of a medical device through a patient's skin, the container comprising:

a cylindrical housing in which there are defined a cap and a sleeve, said sleeve including a resting base having a planar surface configured for placement against a patient's skin, said base having, on an outer face, a gauze adhering to said base, said gauze comprising an adhesive having a removable protecting film thereon, said cap being axially slidable relative to said sleeve when a sufficient pressure is exerted on said cap;

a retaining member located within said housing, said retaining member having a needle secured thereto;

a releasing member for releasing said needle from said retaining member when said cap is made to slide on said sleeve, thereby allowing the placement of said needle under the patient's skin and the subsequent removal of said container;

wherein the container is disposable and upon exertion of said pressure on said cap the force resulting from said pressure is transferred to said needle so that said needle is placed through the patient's skin by means of said pressure exerted on said cap and

wherein said needle is an L-shaped needle comprising a drug inlet branch transversally arranged within said housing and an axially arranged drug outlet branch, said inlet branch being connected to a hose radially extending from said container.

6. A container as claimed in claim 5, wherein said retaining member includes a securing portion directed toward said cap and a retaining portion directed toward said sleeve, said securing portion being firmly held inside an axial cylindrical hub extending within the cap and integral therewith, and said retaining portion axially extending within the housing and ending, at its end remote from said securing portion, with a plate transversally arranged relative to the axis of the retaining member, said plate being engaged against said sleeve so as to allow sliding of said cap on said sleeve when said plate is released from said sleeve.

7. A container as claimed in claim 6, wherein said plate has a substantially circular shape and comprises a pair of diametrically opposite radial grooves for the passage of corresponding axial projections formed within the sleeve and

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arranged to guide the axial sliding of the plate and the retaining member, when said cap is depressed.

8. A container as claimed in claim 7, wherein said plate comprises a groove, diametrically crossing the plane of the plate and retaining the inlet branch of the L-shaped needle for the infusion of the drug, said groove being arranged perpendicularly to said radial grooves.

9. A container as claimed in claim 8, wherein said groove retaining the needle axially extends inside the plate and the retaining member and widens at its end, into a radial hollow, thereby to define two diametrically opposite portions of said plate, which portions are deformable to release the needle retained in said groove.

10. A container as claimed in claim 9, wherein a pair of radially extending protrusions are formed on the internal wall of said sleeve to keep the plate in engagement with said sleeve, and wherein the internal wall of said sleeve comprises an axial groove through which the outlet branch of the L-shaped needle passes.

11. A container as claimed in claim 10, wherein said releasing member for releasing said needle from said retaining member comprises a pair of diametrically opposite fins, which are formed in the retaining portion of said retaining member and which project upwardly from the plate and diverge toward the cap, said fins ending with a convex portion interfering with said axial projections when the cap is depressed and the retaining member is made to slide along the sleeve for releasing the plate from the protrusions, so that, when the cap is completely lowered against the sleeve, the retaining member is arranged with the plate against the gauze and the branch of the L-shaped needle is completely placed through the patient's skin after having passed through an opening in the gauze.

12. A container as claimed in claim 5, wherein said retaining member comprises two coupled half-shells and includes a securing portion directed toward said cap and a retaining portion directed toward said sleeve, said retaining portion including a cavity between said half-shells for receiving said needle, and said securing portion comprising two shoulders, which are received into corresponding recesses formed in the edge of the sleeve remote from said base, and an axial recess extending up to said cavity.

13. A container as claimed in claim 12, wherein said sleeve comprises means for resiliently retaining said half-shells against each other.

14. A container as claimed in claim 12, wherein respective radial projections are provided on the inner surface of said sleeve in correspondence with the recesses, which projections co-operate with said shoulders and with respective teeth formed in the securing portion of said retaining member to axially join said retaining member to said sleeve.

15. A container as claimed in claim 12, wherein one of said half-shells comprises one or more pins engaging corresponding holes in the other half-shell when said half-shells are coupled to each other.

16. A container as claimed in claim 12, wherein the inlet branch of said needle is retained inside said cavity by co-operation between at least one support projection and at least one tongue provided on one of said half-shells and received in respective seats provided in the other half-shell.

17. A container as claimed in claim 16, wherein one of said support projections is configured to prevent transversal movements of said needle relative to said sleeve.

18. A container as claimed in claim 12, wherein the half-shells are divided into first sections and second sections connected by a flexible connecting member, said first sections

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being shaped to define therebetween a passage for the outlet branch of said needle when said half-shells are joined to each other.

19. A container as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sleeve comprises two facing L-shaped axial projections forming a seat for said first sections.

20. A container as claimed in claim 19, wherein said releasing member comprises a projection provided inside said cap and received within said recess, wherein said projection is configured to force apart said second sections of the half-shells of said retaining member and push the inlet branch of said needle toward the container base when said cap slides on said sleeve, until the complete placement of the outlet branch of said needle through the patient's skin.

21. A container as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a second gauze, protected by a respective removable adhesive film and joined with said first gauze, the second gauze being foldable on the first gauze when the needle has been inserted and the container has been removed, whereby the first gauze and the inlet branch of the needle can be covered leaving only said second gauze exposed.

22. A container as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a second gauze, protected by a respective removable adhesive film and joined with said first gauze, the second gauze being foldable on the first gauze when the needle has been inserted and the container has been removed, whereby the first gauze and the inlet branch of the needle can be covered leaving only said second gauze exposed.

23. A container for facilitating placement of a cannula of a medical device through a patient's skin, the container comprising:

a housing comprising a cap telescopically slidable over a sleeve, said sleeve defining an axis therethrough and including a resting base configured for placement against said patient's skin, said cap being slidable between a first position and a second position along the axis of said sleeve, wherein said cap substantially encases the axial length of said sleeve when said cap is in said second position; and

a retaining member located within said housing, said retaining member having a piercing member secured thereto, said piercing member extending at least partially through said cannula for transcutaneous placement of said cannula;

wherein said piercing member is concealed within said sleeve when said cap is in said first position and exposed from said sleeve when said cap is in said second position;

wherein upon exertion of said pressure on said cap, said cap slides axially toward said patient's skin along said sleeve so that said piercing member is placed through said patient's skin and an end of said cannula is transcutaneously inserted and said medical device is retained on the patient and said piercing member secured to said retaining member is removed.

24. The container of claim 23 wherein a force resulting from an insertion pressure exerted on said cap is transferred to said piercing member.

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25. The container of claim 23 further comprising a projecting structure defining said retaining member and extending generally axially from an end portion of said cap within said sleeve.

26. The container of claim 25 wherein said piercing member is attached to said projecting structure.

27. The container of claim 23 wherein said base comprises an adhesive face configured for adhering said base to said patient's skin.

28. The container of claim 27 further comprising a gauze attached to said base, said gauze configured for adhering said base to said patient's skin.

29. The container of claim 28, wherein said gauze includes an opening for said piercing member.

30. The container of claim 27 further comprising a protective film for covering said adhesive face prior to adhering said base to said patient's skin.

31. A container for facilitating placement of a cannula of a medical device through a patient's skin, the container comprising:

a housing comprising a care telescopically slidable over a sleeve, said sleeve defining an axis therethrough and including a resting base configured for placement against said patient's skin, said cap being slidable between a first position and a second position along the axis of said sleeve, wherein said care substantially encases the axial length of said sleeve when said care is in said second position; and

a retaining member located within said housing, said retaining member having a piercing member secured thereto, said piercing member extending at least partially through said cannula for transcutaneous placement of said cannula; and

a release member for releasing said piercing member from said retaining member;

wherein said piercing member is concealed within said sleeve when said cap is in said first position and exposed from said sleeve when said care is in said second position; and

wherein upon exertion of said pressure on said cap, said cap slides axially toward said patient's skin along said sleeve so that said piercing member is placed through said patient's skin and an end of said cannula is transcutaneously inserted and said medical device is retained on the patient and said piercing member secured to said retaining member is removed.

32. The container of claim 23, further comprising a releasable annular protector surrounding said at least a portion of said sleeve to prevent said cap from sliding relative to said sleeve.

33. The container of claim 23, wherein said sleeve extends distal to a tip of said piercing member prior to insertion of said piercing member.

34. The container of claim 23, wherein said sleeve further comprises a pair of guiding members to guide said cap relative to said sleeve when said cap is depressed.

35. The container of claims 23 wherein said piercing member is adapted to administer a drug.

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